MANSFIELD DATA ON WAR REVEALED

Reports to Presidents Asked Restrained Role for U.S.

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WASHINGTON, April 21 (AP) — The Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield, secretly advised two Presidents in the nine teen-sixties to restrain, rather than extend, United States involvement in the Vietnam war.

His confidential reports to President John F. Kennedy in 1962 and to President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965 were made public today after they were declassified by Secretary of State William P. Rogers.

"It would be well to face the fact that we are once alain at the beginning of the beginn- the fact that we are once again ing," Senator Mansfield, Democrat of Montana, reported to President Kennedy on Dec. 18, 1962, after an inspection trip in Southeast Asia.

Three years later, on Dec. 17, 1965, Mr. Mansfield reported to President Johnson, after another trip, "insofar as the United States is concerned, the war in Vietnam is just beginning."

He had advised President Kennedy in 1962 that "We may well discover that it is in our interests to do less rather than more than we are now doing."

At the time of the 1965 report the United States military command in Vietnam has asked for 150,000 more men. The 150,000, Senator Mansfield reported to Mr. Johnson, should be considered only a "first installment."

"Indeed," he said, "it is not too early to begin to contemplate the need for a total of upwards of 700,000."

Feared War's Spread

The majority leader urged that every effort be made to prevent the war from spreading to Cambodia, Laos and Thailand and to bring the conflict to the conference table.

"Until that moment arrives, I believe every effort must be made to restrain rather than extend our involvement on the Asian mainland," Senator Mansfield's report said.

"In my judgment, the greater and the more inextricable our commitment there — whatever its shadow may be—the weaker will be the substance of our position throughout the rest of the world."

Mr. Mansfield said that he asked that the documents be declassified last month because "it seemed to me that with both Presidents who were involved now dead and with events having moved in an exorable way to the present situation in Indochina, there was no longer any reason to withhold these two documents from the public record."